



REQUEST TO EMERGENCY COMMISSION
SECRETARY OF STATE
(See SFN 02580)

#4
#2052

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NOV 30 2021

Requestor Information

Department name: Department of Environmental Quality
Department number: 303
Name of contact person: Beth Jacobson
Telephone number: (701) 328-5154

SECRETARY OF STATE

Purpose of Request

Is this request related to a state emergency? No

Purpose of request: Increase in line item spending authority

Line Item	Amount
30330 Operating Line	\$1,200,000

Funding Information

What is the source of funds for the requested increase? Federal

Is the funding source a pass-through from another agency? Yes

Agency name: Department of Health

Will continued funding be required if Federal funds are no longer available? No

Does the request require a general fund match in this biennium? No

Will the request require general fund support in the next biennium? No

Background Information

Was any portion of the request presented during the previous legislative session? Yes

Provide explanation:

During the sixty-seventh legislative session, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) submitted testimony for HB1395 to request \$1,500,000 for wastewater testing. Due to other priorities, the request was not funded. However, the sixty-seventh legislative assembly added legislative intent language in DEQ's appropriation bill, SB2024 Section 6. The language stated that the department of environmental quality use federal COVID-19 relief funds or any funds for defraying the expenses of wastewater testing. To comply with this intent, the DEQ reached out to the Department of Health (DoH). It was determined that the DoH would have Coronavirus Relief Funds and other federal funds available to pass through to the DEQ for the testing of wastewater for the presence of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) and possible variants. In the June 2021 Emergency Commission meeting the DEQ requested and was approved for \$750,000 of additional funding authority for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Is the request for a new program? No

Does the request require an FTE increase? No

Does the request conform with legislative intent? Yes

Provide explanation:

The sixty-seventh legislative assembly added legislative intent language in the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) appropriation bill, SB2024 Section 6. The language stated that the Department of Environmental Quality use federal COVID-19 relief funds or any funds for defraying the expenses of wastewater testing. To comply with this intent, the DEQ reached out to the Department of Health (DoH). It was determined that the DoH would have Coronavirus Relief Funds and other federal funds available to pass through to the DEQ for the testing of wastewater for the presence COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) and possible variants.

Other Information

Statutory provisions that relate to this request:
n/a



Provide an explanation as to how the request supports state priorities, improves state efficiencies, and promotes effective state government:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is committed to helping North Dakota through the COVID-19 pandemic and protecting the health of all North Dakota citizens. The DEQ will partner with Department of Health (DoH) and North Dakota State University (NDSU) to continue the efforts of monitoring COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) and possible variants through the testing of wastewater. Testing of wastewater is a cost effective and efficient way to monitor the virus and emerging variants.

Provide any other relevant information:

The DEQ is requesting additional appropriation authority of \$1,200,000 which is pass through federal funding from the DoH. This will fund the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Wastewater Sampling project for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

The appropriation authority of \$1,200,000 is requested in the Operating Line for shipping of samples, supplies and a contract with NDSU for wastewater testing. The additional funding will allow the Department to continue the sampling of wastewater for COVID-19 and allow for the monitoring of variants.

Signature

☒ I, the undersigned, have read this Request, know the contents, and believe the statements contained within to be true.

Beth Jacobson

Sign Here

11/29/2021

Date